

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-21. (cancelled)

Claim 22. (currently amended) A method for diagnosing or monitoring multiple sclerosis (MS) in a mammal ~~comprising~~ consisting of the steps:

(a) obtaining a sample of body fluid from said mammal, wherein said body fluid includes, blood, blood products and saliva;

(b) performing an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) which binds myelin basic protein (MBP) and characterized by utilizing heparin to reduce non-specific charge interactions with MBP, thereby increasing ~~[[assay]]~~ sensitivity of said assay to about 77%;

(c) determining a level of at least one autoantibody selected from the group consisting of anti-MBP IgG, anti-MBP IgM and a mixture thereof specific for said at least one ~~protein~~ autoantibody in said sample; and,

(d) comparing said level of said at least one autoantibody ~~with statistically significant levels thereof, wherein said level~~ is statistically significant, whereby a diagnosis or monitoring of MS in said mammal is made with a specificity of about 95% and a likelihood ratio (LR) value of about 14.8 .

Claim 23. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said mammal is a human.

Claim 24. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said diagnosis or monitoring is carried out on a single sample.

Claim 25. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said diagnosis or monitoring is carried out on multiple samples such that at least one analysis is carried out on a first sample and at least another analysis is carried out on a second sample.

Claim 26. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[22]]~~ 25, wherein said first and second samples are obtained at different time periods.